

Candidates confident at campaign trail's end

Bill Clinton charged confidently through a final, grueling day of campaigning on Monday, beckoning voters to "embrace new ideas" after 12 years of Republican presidents.



Ross Perot purchased two hours of election-eve network advertising and skewered both his rivals as men who "don't know how to create jobs, don't know how to manage money, don't know how to build businesses."

Democracy's most sacred rite was with the balance of the states rated as toss-ups.

The Arkansas governor tested the limits of human endurance with his last and longest day as a candidate — 29 hours of campaigning through nine states before returning home to Little Rock.

In uplifting, final night television commercials, he said, "we can make American work again." And on his final day of campaigning, he touted

his message of change over and over.

Outside a diner in Philadelphia, Clinton said the election was a "fight between the comfort of the status quo and the courage to embrace new ideas."

"We must have a new economic already under way in Texas, where polling places opened on Oct. 14. Officials said more than one million voters had already marked their ballots.

Nationwide, there were estimates that the votes could total 100 million on Tuesday, not only to pick a president, but 35 senators, a new House of Representatives, a dozen governors, and countless state and local leaders.

Clinton was the leader in all the nationwide polls as the three rivals reached for the finish line. A 50-state survey by ABC said the Democrat was either clearly ahead or leading in states with 295 electoral votes, more than the 270 needed for victory. Bush was clearly ahead or leading in states with 81 electoral votes in the survey, policy," he said later in Ohio. "No more trickle down, not tax and spend, but put the American people first, invest in our jobs, control our health care costs, provide education to all our people. And we can be the greatest country in the world forever."

Clinton linked himself to America's

heroes, telling supporters that when they vote on Tuesday, they could honor the ideas of Jefferson and Washington, the sacrifice of Lincoln, the optimism of the Roosevelts, and "the commitment to the future of John Kennedy."

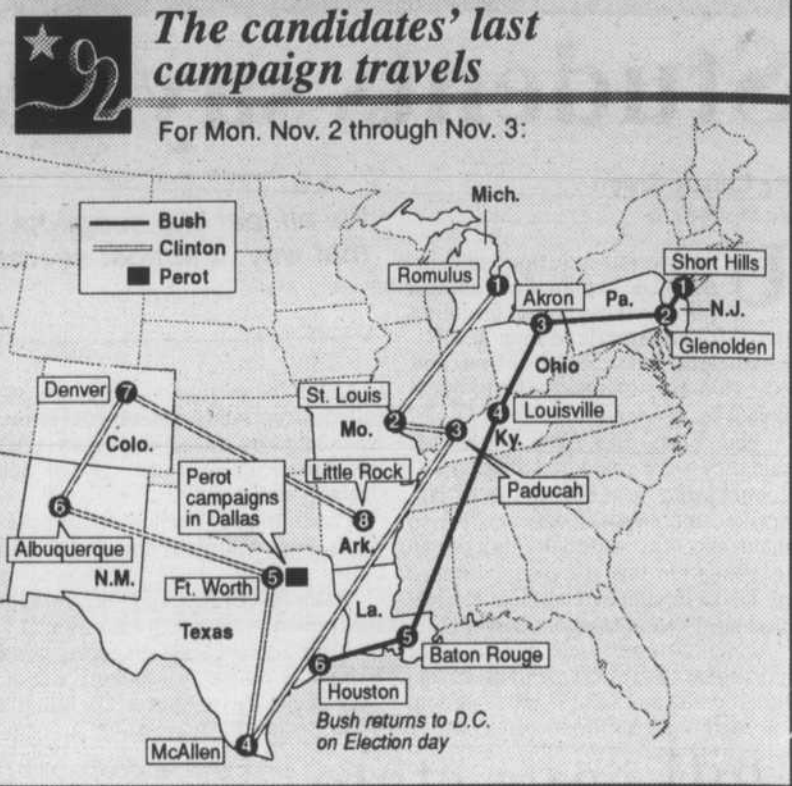
Bush set six stops to end his last campaign.

White House chief of staff James A. Baker III said there had been no talk of defeat in the forward cabin of Air Force One. He said Bush was upbeat and added, "It's very doable, and we're going to do it."

He said his rival was "slippery when wet," trouble waiting to happen on economic policy and the possessor of a flawed character.

The Democrat, he said, "offers an economic disaster for this country," and predicted anew that a Clinton administration would lead to the high interest rates and high inflation of the last Democratic presidency under Jimmy Carter. "We simply cannot go back to those days."

"And so in the final analysis, what it boils down to is who has the experience and who has the character to lead the greatest, freest country on the face of the earth," Bush said.



AP/Carl Fox

Republicans' choice challenger proves formidable foe

Clinton retains lead in poll despite political baggage



Brian Shellito/DN

WASHINGTON — There was a time when Bill Clinton was the Republicans' favorite Democratic challenger. Now the man they thought



would be vulnerable is at the doorstep of the White House, the election-eve favorite to defeat President Bush on Tuesday.

To compound the irony, the original GOP reckoning may have been right. The character and trust questions Bush was pressing in the final days,

when Clinton's lead in the polls narrowed to striking distance, couldn't have been applied to a different Democrat.

One top Republican mused that if the Democratic nominee had been one of the front-rank dropouts — Bill Bradley of New Jersey or Sam Nunn of Georgia, for example — the president's re-election chances probably would be none instead of slim.

The GOP theory was that Clinton was a flawed candidate, carrying too much political baggage to oust the incumbent. He certainly had baggage, but he carried it skillfully and dispensed with much of it early in the season.

percentage points. "We simply cannot take a risk on Gov. Clinton," Bush said Monday. "You have to have the trust of the people through character and you have to have the trust of the world when you are president."

Bush said he didn't come up with the word "slick" to describe Clinton.

"I did say slippery when wet. I will stand with that."

The Gennifer Flowers affair accusations and Clinton's varying accounts of the way he avoided the Vietnam draft both surfaced before the presidential primary elections began; both were problems but not the disasters they could have been later.

Angolan clash leaves 1,000 dead

LUANDA, Angola — Angolan government forces had most of Luanda back under control Monday and appealed to citizens not to wreak revenge on UNITA rebels after fighting reportedly left up to 1,000 dead.

As rebel resistance melted in the capital, armed civilians were reported hunting down rebels. UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's second-in-command and nephew were reported killed, and a third top rebel wounded. Police said they captured three UNITA generals.

If confirmed, the losses would be a major setback to the U.S.-backed UNITA rebels, who signed a ceasefire with the pro-Soviet government in 1991 to end a 16-year civil war in which 350,000 people died.

Clashes between the governing MPLA — the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola — and UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — erupted in the provinces Thursday and spread to Luanda Saturday.

State radio said up to 1,000 people died in the fighting, which threatened to renew the war until a U.N.-sponsored truce took effect just after midnight Sunday.

Tensions had been rising since September's national elections, which UNITA lost. Savimbi contends the vote was rigged; the United Nations says the balloting was generally free and fair.

Rebel officials reported skirmishes

in some parts of the country Monday, but police claimed to have Luanda back under control. Only sporadic shooting and explosions were heard in some districts.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed, and police warned civilians to stay off the streets because of snipers. Police vehicles with loudspeakers cruised the streets urging people to respect the cease-fire.

Many armed civilians had fought alongside police against the rebels over the weekend.

A government statement read over state radio appealed to people to show "humanitarian treatment" to UNITA supporters.

Advertisement for Pickles CD's & Tapes featuring 'In Store This Week Great New Hits SADE, BON JOVI & BOB DYLAN-ACOUSTIC' with pricing and address information.

Lottery advertisement featuring a quote: 'The lottery has a hollow allure. It is misleading, especially to the poor.' by Eskridge, criminal justice professor.

Daily Nebraskan masthead and contact information including Editor Chris Hopfensperger, Managing Editor Kris Karnopp, and various department heads.